

The Minority Voice

Don't Forget To Vote Tuesday, May 2nd!

April 2, 2000 - April 27, 2000

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Many Children Continue to live in Poverty

BY: CASH MICHAEL

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Despite dramatic drops in the number of families from the welfare and public assistance rolls since 1996, the number of children in poverty continues to grow across the country, and here in North Carolina, according to the latest report from a noted child advocacy group.

The Children's Defense Fund, a nonprofit Washington, DC based organization, reports in its "The State of America's Children: Yearbook 2000", that "Seventy-four percent of poor children today live in working families who cannot make enough to escape poverty."

One in five children in America, or 13.5 million, are poor, according to CDF's research, based on US Censos and US Dept. of Health and Human Services figures. Thirty-two percent of those children belong to Black families making less than \$13,003 annually. What may be surprising to some people, however, is that 62% are white (which includes Hispanics).

In North Carolina, according to the latest US Censos figures, there were 1,919,774 children in 1998-- 25.4% of the total state population.

Based on 1989 income (the most recent figures used for the 1990 US Censos since calculations from the 2000 Censos won't be ready until 2002), of NC's

272,923 children under 18 who are poor (17.2% of total children's population). 35.9% are Black, 9.3% are white, and 24.2% are Hispanic.

The country with the highest percentage of poor children is Hyde with 40.8%. Over 264,079 children received food stamps in fiscal year 1998. In FY 1999, 815,665 children received free, reduced-price or full priced school lunches through the child nutrition program. Over 261,223 were enrolled in the school breakfast program, and 43,299 were fed through the summer food program.

In terms of incidence of low birth weight babies, 13.6% for Black mothers, compared to 7.1% for whites, and 6.1 for hispanic mothers. For infant mortality, Blacks again led whites--15.7 to 6.9% for 1997, the latest year for figures.

The teen birth rate overall in NC has gone down to 61.3% in 1997, the lowest since 1990, from a high 70.5 in 1991.

In education, NC clearly has what could be called a crisis, according to US Dept. of Education figures for 1998, 72% of the state's fourth graders are reading below proficiency level. The pupil/teacher ratio is 16-1, according to 1996 figures, and high school completion from 1995-97 was 87.1%.

When it comes to child abuse, NC is prominent as well, according to the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Between 1990 and 1997, the number of child abuse victims jumped 34% from 24,880 to 33,347. Neglect

accounts for the highest type of abuse--87.1%. Sexual abuse is 4.1%, while physical abuse is 4.5%.

If there is one area of good news, it's firearm deaths of children and teens 19 and under from 1995-97. During that three-year period, the state's total number dropped from 150 to 92. The most prevalent are homicides, which went from 77 to 1995, to 45 in 1997.

In America, nearly 12 children die each day from gunfire, according to figures compiled by the Children's Defense Fund. Children under the age of 15 are 12 times more likely to die by gunfire than children in 25 other industrialized countries.

The CDF report recommends that states like NC ensure education, training and work at a decent wage for poor families with children, that more money be invested in early childhood intervention programs like Smart Start, that children be taught how to resolve their differences without violence, and that states not return hundreds of millions of unspent public assistance funding to the federal government, but be allowed to spend it to enhance training and opportunities for the poor.

"Do what you can right now to mentor and support a child and advocate for all children," CDF Executive Director Marian Wright Edleman wrote in the report. "Do not wait for everyone to come along."

"They never will."

Edgecombe County Democrats



May 2nd, you have the opportunity to vote for the candidate of your choice. Voting has the power to create change and make things happen. Edgecombe County Commissioner Florence Arnold Armstrong is shown with Edgecombe County Sheriff Knight and newly appointed House of Representative John Hall. All encourage you to get out and vote.

Photo by Abdoul Rouse

Easley Leads in the Polls 53%

By Stephen Johnson Editor

Candidates endorsed by the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People have been judged to be capable of improving the lives of Black citizens. However several people argue intimidation from the Political Committee played a part in this year's endorsements, primarily its open vote policy.

"The process just wasn't quite correct" city council member and Political Committee voter Jackie Wagstaff said. "Because it was an open ballot people had to be seen they couldn't vote with their hearts. And it's a shame in a political process that you have to vote that way."

"its sort of like being under a slumlord rule. The slumlord has

all the power and the tenants feel powerless" Wagstaff said fear was particule evident in the committee's gubernatorial endorsement, in which it endorsed Lt Governor Dennis Wicker over Attorney General Mike Easley. Some voters lobbied for a secret ballot but failed to get enough support.

Because Easley leads Wicker in the polls and has appointed blacks to high powered positions and tackled issues pertinent to blacks, Wagstaff said he would have been the more favorable choice if votes were done by a secret ballot. According to a new WTVD poll released Tuesday, April 18, 2000 conducted by Survey USA showed Democrat Mike Easley maintain a significant lead in the gubernatorial primary. Easley 53% Wicker 24% other

11% undecided 11% In recent news Attorney General Mike Easley announced that Medicaid recipients are now eligible for the Lifeline/Link-Up discount telephone programs. The Lifeline program allows persons in need to receive telephone service at a discounted rate while the Link-Up program provides a discount for their initial hook-up of phone service. Citizens who have questions regarding eligibility for the Life/link-Up programs should contact their local phone company, the North Carolina Utilities Commission at (919) 733-2435 or the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section at (919) 716-6000. Some information in this article taken from the Triangle Tribune.

Senior Citizen's Gathering



Senior Citizen's Gathering shown at Snow Hill's Senior citizen gathering on the campaign trail brother Jim Rouse along with very popular Snow Hill resident Jerry Green. As well as another citizen who is popular in the Black Community Brother Brit all encourage you to get out and vote for Jim Rouse NC house of Representatives. Photo by Abdoul Rouse

Clebration 2000 may be held in Greenville

CELEBRATION 2000 TO BE HELD IN GREENVILLE MAY 26 & 27

Greenville, N. C., April 12, 2000 Eastern Carolinians for Unity and Spiritual Renewal, a group comprised of many of the principals involved with the highly successful Franklin Graham Crusade in Greenville in 1998, will conduct a follow-up spiritual rally in Williams Arena, Minges Coliseum May 26 and 27, 2000. Nationally recognized speaker Arlee Griffin of the Berean Baptist Church in New York City will be the featured speaker on Friday night May 26th. Griffin, who has eastern North Carolina ties, now ministers to one of the largest

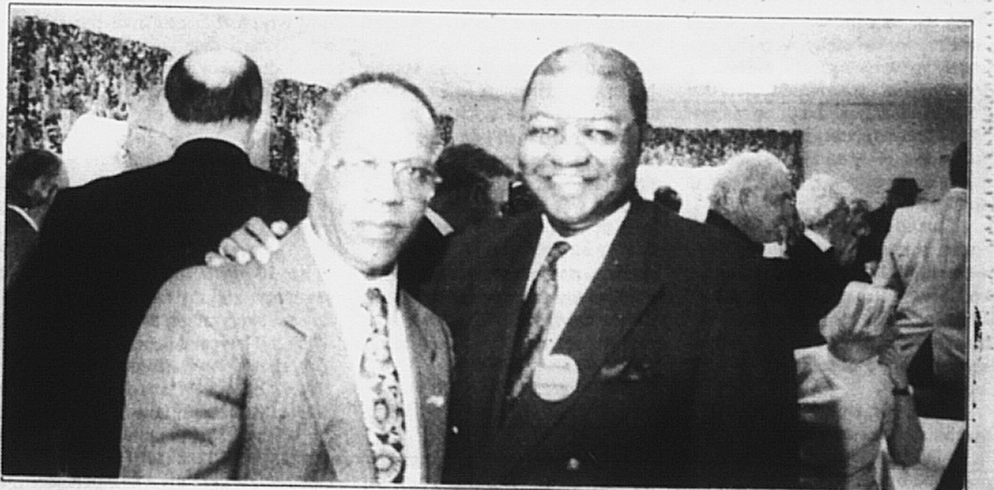
Congregations in the USA with a church membership of around 6,000 members. Griffin, a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill also holds a PHD degree from Boston University and is currently serving on the Board of Directors at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. On Saturday night, May 27, the speaker will be local evangelist Reverend Tom Holtsclaw, the pastor of Jarvis United Methodist Church in Greenville. Reverend Holtsclaw was one of the facilitators of the Franklin Graham Crusade in Greenville and is now called on by the Graham organization to speak to Communities across the USA on behalf of the crusade.

The event will also feature a Mass Choir Comprised of singers and musicians from area churches. There is no admission charge for any Celebration 2000 events. Organizers feel the timing for a Franklin Graham Crusade follow-up is right considering the problems the area has suffered in recent months with the flooding following Hurricane Floyd and recent problems in local governments that have caused a division and created philosophical differences. There is a sense that bringing the eastern North Carolina community together in the name of Jesus Christ once again will create healing and comfort along with spiritual renewal.



Martin County Democratic Women. Brother Rouse who was campaigning in Martin County is shown posing for the "M" Voice camera along with the Collard Green King Mort Hurts as well as Sandra Mc Cleary and long time Martin County resident Miss Manson. The fellowship was strong and very friendly. Photo by Abdoul Rouse

Vote for Shackelfort



Shown posing for the "M" Voice camera candidate for County Commissioner Brother Shackelfort along with Jim Rouse. Both on hand at Snow Hill Senior Citizen's gathering. Photo by Abdoul Rouse



KLEAVER'S KLIPPINGS

Getting to the Heart of the Los Angeles Department Police Crisis

The newspapers, television stations and radio are having a field day with the problems surrounding the crisis within LAPD. It is extremely interesting to note that some city council members are making critical statements regarding the police commission and the oversight of the police department.

In a recent newspaper article, council member Laura Chick, commented that the Los Angeles Police Department must be answerable to the public it serves. To some, this might be seen as an extremely profound pro-

ouncement. Well, it just ain't so. It seems rather strange that during the tenure of former LAPD boss, Daryl Gates, cries and even screams from this community were virtually shoved aside and ignored.

Because of the problems that were considered endemic within the framework of the black community, there were several attempts to have Gates ousted from his post. If my memory serves me correctly, Rep. Maxine Waters made several attempts to get someone to listen to her charges of racism and uneven policing within

the black community. Nothing happened. Now that Bernard Parks has unearthed at least a portion of the problem, we are hearing outcries from media, elected officials, appointed officials, and the dominant political money brokers. They are all asking for stronger civilian oversight of the LAPD.

Back in the '60s and '70s, black men and women refused to drive in the area patrolled by 77th street police officers. If a black man had a decent car and dressed fairly well, he was considered fair game for those officers, it has been opinion. The problem was so widespread that many black people who lived in that vicinity often refused to leave their homes after dark.

In words of one syllable, they were scared to death. When they sought to complain, they were either told they were overreacting or that it was just their imagination. It would be virtually impossible to count the numbers of people who came to the *Sentinel* with their complaints because there was no other place for them go.

Black citizens have complained time and again that when they went to file a complaint against an officer, the complaint was either not taken or the process was made so difficult that the citizen went home discouraged.

Let me be clear about the issue.

While the face of the matter involves a disgraced police officer, Rafael Perez, the problem is much more serious. It is a situation that has existed for decades and nothing past the cosmetic has been done. That is, until Bernard Parks, the second black chief of the department, but in reality, the first black chief to come up through the ranks, took control and decided to clean up some of the problems.

Assuming for the sake of argument, that the charges leveled against the department are at least in part true, we must also assume that the problems did not begin nor end with Perez. It might even be safe to consider that many of the charges leveled against LAPD had more than a modicum of truth to them.

This brings us to the very critical question, which is the basis for this column. Where were the loud voices of the political powers when Bill Parker, Ed Davis, Daryl Gates, et. al, were sitting at the helm?

At the risk of being racist, I must, in all good conscience, ask the question. Were they allowed free reign because they were the same hue as the people who supported them? Was the citizenry of the Valley, the West Side and the moneyed communities so afraid of being invaded by blacks that they closed their eyes to the injustices that were heaped upon black people in the same of justice?

If the answer is "No," then why are we suddenly being bombarded with opinions and attitudes that should have been prevailing 30-40 years ago? Did white Los Angeles suddenly "get religious?"

If we look closely at the problem, we will quickly realize that it is not a problem with Perez, but rather a problem with the old guard. While most of that cadre has long since been retired, we must remember they helped to train some of the officers who are now sitting in positions of power and some of the attitudes of that old guard are still prevalent in the offers they helped to train.

Older black retired police officers have told stories about how Parker sent recruiters to the South because the "good old boys" know how to handle black people. Some of those Southerners were hired and became members of LAPD. Through the years, there have been myriad problems within the department.

The late Judge Earl C. Broady Sr., the father of famed criminal attorney Earl C. Broady Jr., left LAPD after being passed over for promotion. A less qualified man got the job. Why? You know the answer.

LAPD has a spotted history. It is interesting to note that the first black captain in that department was not promoted until the later 1960s. That was Homer Broome, who went on to

become an administrator for the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Joseph T. Rouzan retired as a captain, but went on to become the chief of police for two cities as well as the city manager for two cities. Ron Nelson, a lieutenant when he retired, was named chief for the University of San Francisco. The list goes on and on. Parks is another example of problems within LAPD. He was held back for a number of years after he reached the rank of commander. Ron Banks is now the chief of Inglewood. The accomplishments of the black officers are too numerous to count. They were, however, disregarded by the powers at the top.

All of these things went on in other administrations and there was no outcry from so-called concerned citizens.

Once again, we ask why? If the detractors are so hell-bent on changing the system, why did the system flourish for at least a half-century with no real attempt at change?

This brings us to the crux of the matter. Perhaps Bernie Parks has made some tactical errors, but in the main, he is attempting to clean up a mess that was in existence when he was born.

Why are the hounds snapping at the heels now? Where were these same hounds or their counterparts, when black people in Los Angeles were begging for help?

The Taxman at Your Service

By SHELDON RICHMAN

At a time when federal revenues are the highest percentage of gross domestic product since the peak of World War II—over 20 percent—we are asked to feel sorry for the IRS. According to the tax agency, recent legislation has turned it into a shell of its former self. It is unable to collect what is "due." The number of audits and property seizures has slipped. Agents are even afraid that if they collect revenue as they used to, they might lose their jobs. Oh horror!

Before we shed tears for the much-abused IRS, we need to keep some things in mind. The income tax and IRS are vile institutions that have no place in a society that aspires to be free. We have them for one reason alone: they bring in revenues like no other source of taxation, and revenue is the lifeblood of the leviathan state.

Whether or not the IRS is telling the truth about its incapacity to collect taxes, we can be sure that all champions of activist government—Democrat and Republican alike—will rally to its rescue. President Clinton has promised to beef up the agency's budget and staff, and we've heard no opposition from the GOP. Quite the contrary. As the *New York Times* reported, "Republicans in Congress who have criticized the I.R.S. said they were open to the idea that more money might be needed." Clinton has called for a 9 percent increase in its budget. It doesn't take a clairvoyant to predict that the agency will get what it wants. That's 633 more auditors breathing down our necks.

IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti's response to his agency's alleged troubles deserves scrutiny. He warned that continued lax enforcement will "undermine our entire system of voluntary tax compliance." One of the mysteries of life is the federal government's insistence that the income tax is voluntary. Considering that it threatens to punish employers who don't withhold employees' taxes and citizens who fail to file tax returns or pay any money "owed," one is at pains to locate precisely the voluntariness in the system. If the system is voluntary, an involuntary system would be one in which the government withheld 100 percent of everyone's income and sent each person a monthly allowance.

Rossotti's statement is reminiscent of a remark by Rep. Charles Rangel, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee: "What makes the voluntary system work is the fear of sanctions and penalties." People in Washington actually talk like that—and mean it!

Let's put the obvious on the record: no tax system is voluntary. "Taxes," as Judge Learned Hand said some time ago, "are forced extractions, not voluntary contributions." A voluntary tax is like a square circle. It is not to be found in the natural world.

Anyone who believes in voluntary taxation probably also believes that what the IRS provides is "customer service." That's another term the tax enforcers like to use. We are being lulled into thinking the IRS exists for our benefit. It wants to help us. Help us do what? Comply with the tyrannical demands it enforces on behalf of its sponsor, the money-grubbing members of the U.S. Congress? As the comedian Shelley Berman said in an old routine, "Do me a favor: don't do me any favors."

Rossotti recently told a congressional committee: "Customer satisfaction is not achieved by failing to collect taxes that are properly due." Speak for yourself, Mr. Commissioner.

The intrepid Americans who opposed the income tax early in the century were prophetic. The tax has become the inquisitorial monster they predicted. Moreover, it has permitted the government to act as though it has a valid claim to 100 percent of our income; whatever we get to keep is by kind permission, and we should be darned grateful. Any mention of a tax cut is met with questions about whether it is really needed or whether the government can afford it. The default position for the money is in the government's coffers. The rights of those who produced the wealth don't matter.

We've come along way since that minuscule tea tax incited a revolution.

(Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va. (www.fff.org), author of the foundation book *Your Money or Your Life: Why We Must Abolish the Income Tax*, and editor of *Ideas on Liberty* magazine.)



URBAN PERSPECTIVE Inequitable Resources and Student Achievement

Anyone even passingly conversant about the urban scene knows that public education in the nation's inner cities is a failure. Numerous reform efforts have made little impact on the core problems, and students of color especially, continue to suffer institutional inequities.

A recent report by the Public Policy Institute of California addresses the resources—student achievement question—it is entitled "Equal Resources, Equal Outcomes? The Distribution of School Resources and Student Achievement in California."

Since the early 1970s, ballot initiatives and court rulings have sought to equalize funding across California's schools. Yet, 30 years later, funding inequities continue. Moreover, although "funding per pupil" provides a measure of school resources within a district, it provides little insight into how individual schools spend their revenues.

Statewide surveys (conducted in 1998 and 1999) found that Californians consider schools and education by far the most pressing problems facing the state. The Equal Resources report undertook to answer several critical questions about California's K-12 schools:

- 1) How do school resources—measured in terms of class size, curriculum, and teachers' education, credentials and experience—vary among schools?
- 2) Do schools serving relatively disadvantaged populations tend to receive fewer resources?
- 3) Do existing inequalities in school resources contribute to unequal student outcomes?

Average class size differs little across schools. However, teacher preparation and high school curriculum vary considerably. Certain teacher

characteristics differ markedly among K-6 schools, with and without a shortage of teacher skills. There is much variation across schools in the number of teachers with low-levels of preparation. Lack of full certification is especially striking. Among schools with little or no skills shortage, all teachers have full certification; among schools with significant skills shortage, nearly 20 percent of teachers lack full certification. Among middle schools and high schools, variations in teacher preparation are similar.

Like teacher preparation, high school curriculum varies considerably in terms of the percentage and number of advanced course offerings, i.e., the University of California "a-f" courses and Advanced Placement courses (AP).

Analysis of teacher preparation and curriculum offerings in urban, rural and suburban schools revealed that urban schools, by most measures, have a higher percentage of teachers with low preparation levels, hardly a revelation. For example, 26 percent of the teachers in urban elementary schools have only a bachelor's degree or less compared to 12 percent of the teachers in suburban schools and 11 percent in rural schools. Similar disparities exist in middle and high schools.

Schools serving "relatively disadvantaged" populations of students receive fewer resources. This study divided elementary schools into five socioeconomic status (SES) groups, based on the proportion of students participating in free or reduced-price lunch programs. The statewide inequities in school resources among disadvantaged students are similarly replicated within districts: In other words, within a given district, schools with particularly disadvantaged students

are likely to have less educated and less experienced teachers and, at the high school level, to offer fewer AP courses.

California students lag substantially behind national norms on the Stanford 9 reading and math tests. In a typical grade, only about 40-45 percent of the state's students scored at or above the national median. The unusually large proportion of limited English-proficient (LEP) students in California accounts for at least two-thirds of the gaps in math and reading performance.

One of the study's most important questions was whether and how school characteristics related to student achievement, which varies widely across schools, even when LEP students are excluded from the sample. Among school resources, the level of teacher experience and the percentage of teachers without a full credential are the variables most strongly related to student outcomes. However, the most important factor relating to student outcomes is SES.

Given the evidence in this study of unequal resource allocations within districts, it seems unlikely that the devolution of authority to school districts will equalize resources among schools and, in fact, it could work in the opposite direction. The report suggests that the state may want to require, or at least encourage districts to reduce within district resource inequities, especially those related to teachers, in return for greater local control over teaching methods and curriculum.

Addressing the considerable variation in the proportion of college preparatory and AP courses in California, the report suggests: First, smaller schools and districts offer fewer AP courses. Such schools should use a

combination of course-sharing with other schools, "distance learning" through the Internet or other innovative solutions. The most cost-effective solution might be to encourage promising students to take community college courses; second, variations in teacher education partly account for variations in AP offerings. This means that inequalities in teacher preparation must be addressed before simply requiring that all schools offer identical sets of AP courses; third, weaknesses in curriculum in middle schools and even elementary schools may limit students' ability to undertake AP courses in high school. Thus, reforms to remedy the situation must obviously begin much earlier than high school.

The 1999 Public Schools Accountability Act rewards schools that meet or make adequate progress toward meeting state standards. It also threatens schools at the bottom end of the state rankings with tough sanctions should they fail to adequately improve. (This obviously has serious implications for inner-city schools.) Thus an unintended side effect of the accountability reforms could be to dissuade principals and teachers from working in schools serving disadvantaged students. To reduce this risk, rewards and punishments should be based in part on performance relative to other schools serving similar student populations. Measures of performance should also be based on improvements in student performance rather than simply on level of achievement relative to other schools. Additional resources must be directed to schools in disadvantaged areas, while phasing in sanctions gradually, so that schools with the greatest problems and most inequities have a reasonable opportunity to improve.



BETWEEN THE LINES Real Men Cry, Real Men Cook, Real Men—Get Their Prostates Checked

The definition of a "real" man has taken many turns in the ever evolving, gender neutral world where everything from work to school to sex is equal or "bi" in terms of access or opportunity. The demand that men show their "real" side comes from the redefinition of the social construction whereby women, who are doing (or trying to do) everything men do—have convinced society that "emotion is a good thing," to redirect the discussion about a perceived emotional sensitivity on the ever increasing roles of women being taken on in society.

Thus, to equalize the playing field, social interface between men and women, between women and women, and between men and men, shifted from the cold, cool, pretentious demeanor of men to the feeling, expressive, sensitive demeanor of (most) women.

In the '90s, emotionalism was in, machismo was out. Sensitivity was in, stolidity was out, particularly when practiced by men. A whole bunch of people got "in touch with themselves" and "their feelings" in the '90s. As ridiculous as some of it was, it all wasn't such a bad thing. And for black

men, whose health behaviors were masked by being stoic, it saved many of their lives. Why? Because getting "in touch with themselves" also meant going to the doctor when they hurt, and playing past stereotypic fears to save themselves for their families.

There is a whole psychological process that plays out with this new "sensitive" man thing. And it plays differently between men and women. A man getting in touch with his sensitive side could be a very "touchy" subject around a certain set of men. Men expressing themselves and hugging one another as a true sign of bonding was a significant departure from the traditional male interface where they didn't talk of each other's problems nor demonstrate any sign of affection toward one another beyond a handshake, a back pat, or a head nod. The notion that a man would cry, wasn't even a consideration.

Now women find men who cry sexy. Crying in front of other men is still a risky proposition. Hell, crying in front of some women might get you called a "simp." The way I hear my wife and her friends talk about "whiny men," men need to be careful with that one. Men telling their women or children that they "love

them" in public was also a departure from what a man wasn't supposed to do. I was 38 when my father first told me that he loved me. Not because he didn't, but because that was something men just "didn't do." It was more like waiting for your loved ones to say it first, then the man said, "You too." My children can't remember the day where I didn't tell them that I loved them because I've told them every day since they were babies. So, in theory, the sensitivity piece has its positives.

Taking it as far as cooking was a real barrier for me. My position used to be, if I had to cook, why do I need a wife (I know, I can be a real chauvinist). That was until my wife took one of her 10 day business trips about 3 years ago, and my four kids wanted takeout every night, at \$20 to \$40 a whomp. I learned to cook real quick. You should have heard me on the phone, "Baby, how long do I leave the fish in the batter... how high should the fire be," a real humbling experience given all the smack I talked over the years. It gave me a new perspective from a woman's point of view, and my wife was real helpful (after she stopped laughing—"Oh, Mr. 'Big Man' trying to cook now, huh?" I

don't know how much learning to cook made me a real man, but I do know not cooking made me "real broke," so my departure from that philosophical position had an economic motivation but I now pride myself in being a real man in, at least, two areas. But I became a real man when I overcame a third area, or barrier. That barrier was having my health checked on a regular basis. Including my prostate. Turning 40 a few years back, I realized some things made you a man, others didn't.

The third area continues to be a barrier for many men. Men are supposed to feel pain and just bear through it. That's why black men's life expectancy is shorter than anything else's. Prostate cancer is killing (medically) black men at a higher rate than anything else (except homicide). According to "Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, the number of deaths from prostate cancer per 100,000 for black men (53.7) is twice that of whites (24.4) and three and a half times that of Hispanics (15.3). The American Cancer Society estimates that in 1999, 18,500 black men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, 33 percent of them

(6,100) died in that same year—less than a year of being diagnosed, which means most of them never even knew they had it until it was too late.

Much of this can be attributed to the notion that "real men" don't go to the doctor. So some real men, I guess, end up dead from their ignorance when this is purely not the case for men in other races. With early detection, the post treatment survival rate is 5 years, in many cases, longer.

Some of the stereotypical justifications that men don't go to the doctor is for fear they won't be real men anymore if they are operated on. The fear of erectile dysfunction is the biggest barrier to men refusing to be checked. "They won't be the same, sexually, after prostate treatments." Yet, none who advance that position has an answer to the question, "How much sex do you get when you're dead?"

Rest assured that when you're dead it won't be the same either. It will be even less. In fact, none. So where's the logic? There is none beyond black men just thinking about themselves and their own immediate needs. The sensitivity transition comes in when a man asks; Does my family need me

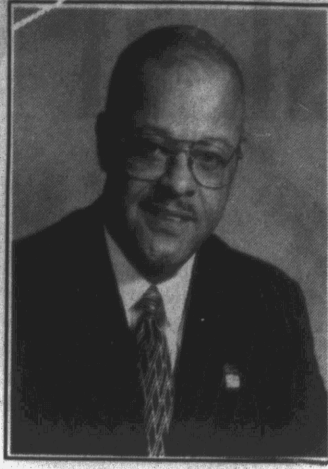
more than I think I need sex, or is my life worth more than my ego? Things that make you go hmmm... now, what is a real man? It's time we help some men make that decision. Being a real man is knowing what comes first, health for life or ignorance for death.

On April 8, the Real Men Cook Foundation will be hosting its Fourth Annual Luncheon Forum on Prostate Cancer at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel & Towers, offering free prostate cancer screenings. For information, call (310) 822-1982. It's not just a forum for men. I've been to the previous ones where women are there getting information and giving support to their "real men."

This year, particular attention is being given to the erectile dysfunction discussion—so brothers with egos can finally get past the d**k thing and on to the life thing. So, ladies, if your man is 40 years of age or older, and hasn't been screened in the last year, put him in the "real man" test. By-pass the questions about "crying" and "cooking" and get straight to the point, "Are you man enough to have your prostate checked for me, to live for me?" You'll find out quickly whether you have a real man. Real men want to live full lives for their families, with or without a prostate.



Evans Street Printing has opened at 408 Evans Street to provide copy and offset press printing services to both large and small customers. According to Danny Syancil one of the owners, Evans Street Printing is equipped with both digital black and white and digital color copiers as well as offset presses and a host of ancillary equipment. This allows the company to process large volume corporate jobs as well as providing small office and home office business with cost-saving advantages. Orin Sharper, the other owner, said. The shop which offers free estimates, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Call 757-3665
Photo by Steve Johnson



Ralph Campbell Jr., State Auditor

Inaugurated as North Carolina State Auditor on January 9, 1993, Ralph Campbell, Jr. became the first African-American in the state's history to win a statewide, elected executive office and sit on the prestigious Council of State of North Carolina.

An independently elected official, the State Auditor is charged with the duty of examining the operations of state agencies and whether they have established adequate financial, performance and administrative procedures and practices, systems of accounting and other necessary elements of legislative and management control. The North Carolina State Auditor has the statutory responsibility for examining and publishing findings and recommendations on every State department and agency, each of the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina system, each of the 58 Community Colleges, and

all 100 of the Superior Court Clerks. His office also collects the independent audits of the more than 1,800 non-governmental agencies in North Carolina which receive state or federal funds, and he has the authority to conduct performance audits on the administration of any of the state's 108 public school systems. In addition, he operates a toll free telephone Hotline established by the NC General Assembly which allows citizens and employees to report potential fraud, waste and abuse within state government.

Ralph Campbell has long recognized the need for more participation by minorities in government. A Raleigh native and graduate of JAW. Lig on High School, Campbell received his degree in business administration from Saint Augustine's College in 1968. He also attended the graduate program in business at North Carolina Central University. He ran for the Raleigh City Council in 1985, winning the District C seat. During his Council tenure, he became involved with a long list of civic, fraternal, religious and human service organizations at the state and local level. His unyielding commitment to his district and the African-American community, as well as his dedication to all Raleigh citizens, regardless of race, color or creed, earned him the respect of many across the city. In 1989, following his election to a third term on the City Council, he was elected by his fellow council members to serve as Mayor Pro Tem, stepping in to assist the Mayor when needed, as well as continuing to serve as a leader for the Council on key issues for all the citizens of Raleigh. As State Auditor, he has expanded his involvement to

include representation on the NC Local Government Commission which oversees the financial affairs of local governments, the NC Information Resource Management Commission which guides the utilization of technology in state government, and the NC Capital Planning Commission which approves the development of the state government complex in Raleigh.

Ralph Campbell's employment history prior to assuming the post of State Auditor includes service with the NC Department of Revenue as a Field Auditor (1977-1986), the NC State Health Benefits Office as Plan Auditor (1986-1990), and the NC Department of Insurance as Administrative Officer (1990-1992).

Campbell has been recognized many times through awards such as the 1984 Omega Man of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and honorary doctorates from Saint Augustine's College and Shaw University for his service to his community. His personal dedication to public service and the integrity of public office have earned him certification as a fraud examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Integrity Award presented by the Auditor General of US Department of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services Award for Distinguished Service.

"I try to find the best solutions for all of our citizens and to help make our state government and its institutions and programs the best they can be," says Campbell. "I am proud of this state and its citizens and the progress we are making together."

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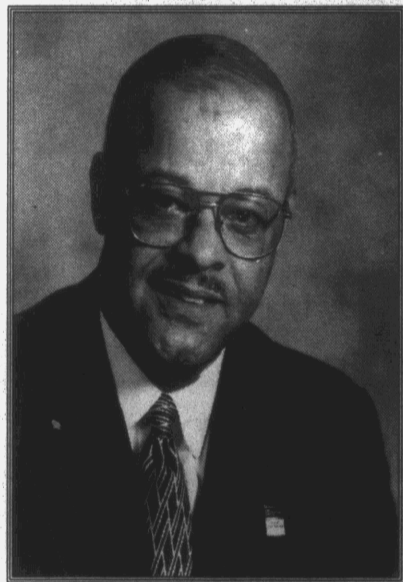


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From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



HOW TO REALLY REST IN PEACE

The death of a family member is one of the most difficult times that anyone can experience. As mourners face their grief and come to grips with their own immortality, they must also handle the business of a final farewell. Yet, according to several AARP research studies, some unscrupulous businesses in the "death industry" take advantage of consumers at this vulnerable moment.

Death is such an unfortunate way to end a life. But there's at least one benefit: Dead men don't plan funerals. A funeral is often the third most expensive purchase a person makes in his or her lifetime - right behind a home and a car and certainly the most unpleasant.

To avoid getting swindled, follow these seven tips:

1. Shop around. The average funeral costs from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. How much should it really cost? If you do your homework, you should be able to find a complete funeral with a metal casket for as low as \$2,000. When you visit the showroom, bring along a friend, someone who is not grieving and won't be suckered by a high-pressure sales pitch.

2 Demand a price list. Funeral homes are required by federal law to provide written price lists for products and general services such as consultations, music and care of the body. But be prepared: Lower-priced items are often missing from the list. You'll ask about a \$500.00 casket and they'll say they don't carry it??

3 Don't feel guilty. Their job is to sell, and if you are crying, they can get you buying, usually with lines like, "This is the last thing you can do for your father

4. Know your caskets. Will a high-priced casket preserve your loved one's body? Not hardly. Some supposedly air tight caskets may actually speed up the deterioration process by building up gases that decompose the body (grave) liners and vaults won't protect the body either. It's the body's acids and chemicals that destroy a casket and higher-priced bronze and copper models are no more protected than stainless steel. Pine caskets are

also a cheaper alternative, but they're rarely on display.

5. Buy on line. Funeral homes are rarely thrilled when you buy elsewhere and may levy a service charge, although the practice is prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission. A 1999 report by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs found that Some funeral homes mark up caskets by as much as 300 per cent.

6. Keep it simple. You don't need a fancy funeral to honor a loved one. limit visitation to one day instead of two, dress the deceased in a favorite outfit instead of costly burial clothing. Direct burial or cremation is another option (taking the body directly to the crematory or cemetery with no preparation or service). Cremation costs about one third less than a grave opening. Hosting memorial services at your home or church can also lead to savings. And although some funeral homes require embalming if there will be a viewing, embalming is not necessary if the body is immediately buried or cremated. Eliminating embalming can Save \$500.00 to \$900.00.

7. Plan ahead. If you want a simple funeral, say so now. Your family will feel less pressure to buy you a designer casket when you're gone. Many funeral homes and cemeteries offer pre-pay plans they're supposed to

save your kids from financing your funeral, but you rarely control the money, and essential services are often left off the contract. A better alternative is to set up a trust fund or invest the money on your own. This way, you and your family control the money. Funeral directors are well aware that people don't shop around. Most choose a funeral home that has served their family before, or was recommended by their church, or is located close to where the live.

R. I. P. Off - now that death has become big business, who can you trust? Only 8 percent know that funeral homes are required to provide customers with a funeral price list.

Click on E (Undertaker) You can do just about anything on the WEB these days - including planning a funeral, buying casket, and even arranging for a perpetual memorial.

From Modern Maturity Magazine, March - April 2000 by Beth Baker and Karen Reyes, p70-79.

QUOTE ON DEATH

1. Be as kind as kind as you can today; tomorrow you may not be here.
2. Perpetual worry will get you to one place ahead of time- the cemetery.
3. The one thing certain about

life is that we must leave it.

4. A person can survive almost everything except death.

5. Make this your motto: Don't die until you're dead.

6. People who are afraid of death are usually afraid of life.

7. A single rose for the living is better than a costly wreath at the grave.

8. nothing seems to make the cost of living as reasonable as pricing funerals.

9. Nothing improves a man's appearance as much as the photograph the newspapers use with his obituary.

*10. The person who is never criticized is not breathing.

JABBERWOCK 2000 PARTICIPANTS

Greenville (NC) Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc sponsors its 14th Scholarship Pageant Saturday, April 22, 6 o'clock (PM) at the J. H. Rose High School Performing Arts Center.

The theme is "Jabberwock in the New Millennium: Bringing the Past, Present and Future".

Seventeen high school juniors and seniors are competing for the title "Miss Jabberwock".

The young ladies have participated in cultural enrichment, public service and educational development activities while raising scholarship funds for their college education.

The chapter president is Mrs. Cynthia Doctor and the pageant coordinator is Ms. Annette Goldring.

COMMUNITY NEWS

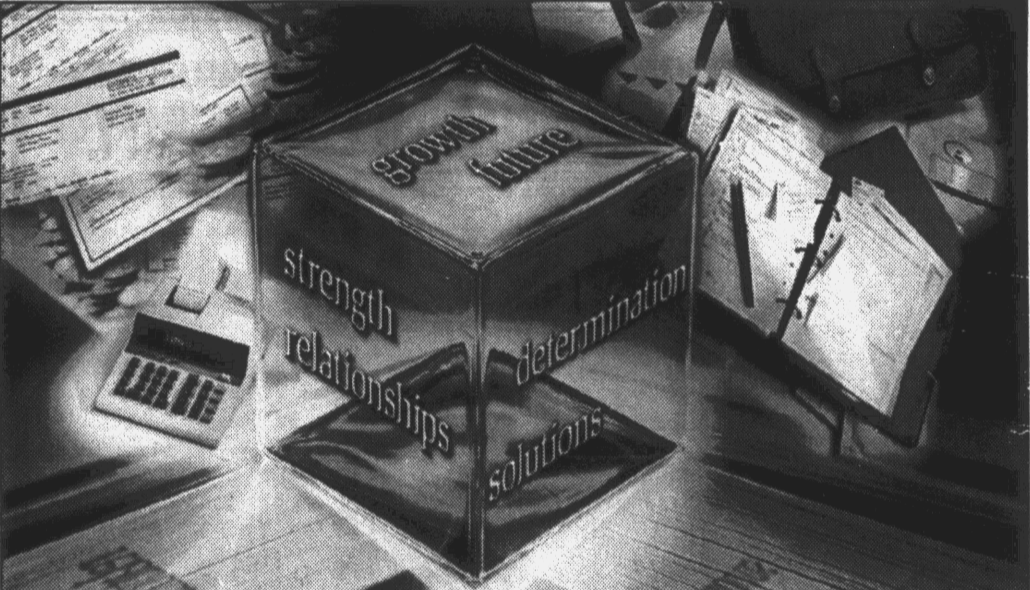
Reverend Montrose Streeter will become the Director of Residence life at Barton College, Wilson, North Carolina, June 1, 2000 Minister Jay Hagans reviewed the Sunday School lesson at Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Sunday, April 16, in the general assembly.

Ben Smith, Meteorologist WNCT Channel 9, talked with senior citizens at the Pitt County Council on Aging, Tuesday, April 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Williams visit with relatives and friends in New York City, over the Easter weekend.

Mrs. Beatrice Maye, retired librarian, shared with 4th and 5th grade students, Wednesday and Thursday, April 13th and 14th at the Sadie Saulter School in the observance of National Library Week from the 2000 theme: "Read, Learn, Contact in Your Library".

While driving in Eastern North Carolina tune into WOOW 1340 a.m., WTOW 1320 a.m. and pick up a copy of the "M" Voice Newspaper.



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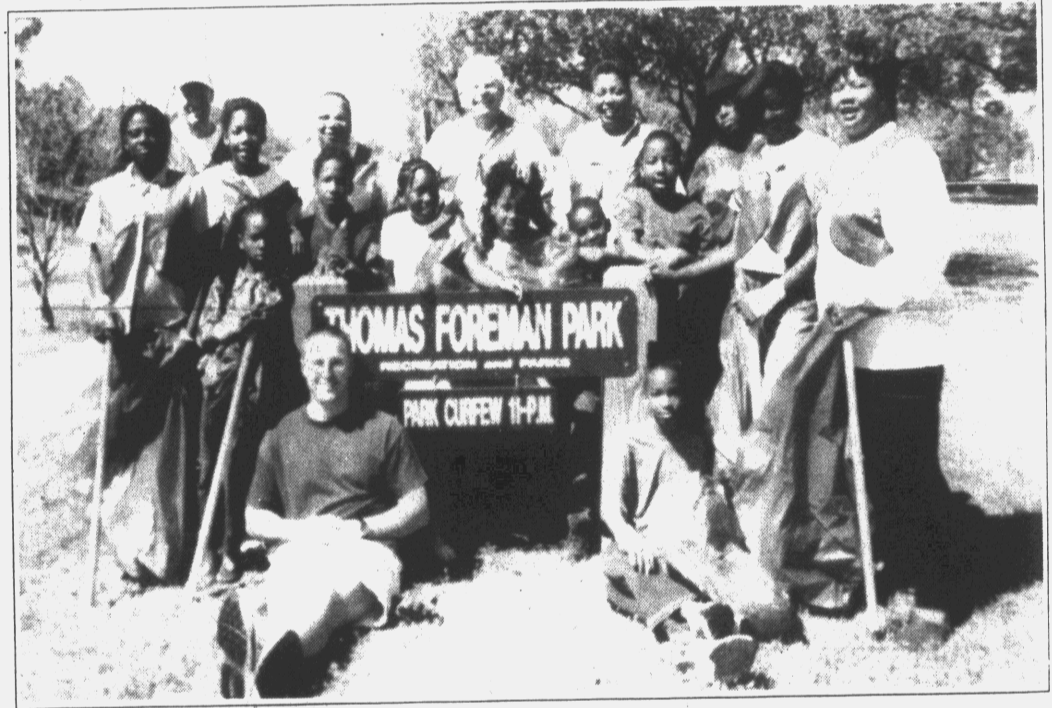
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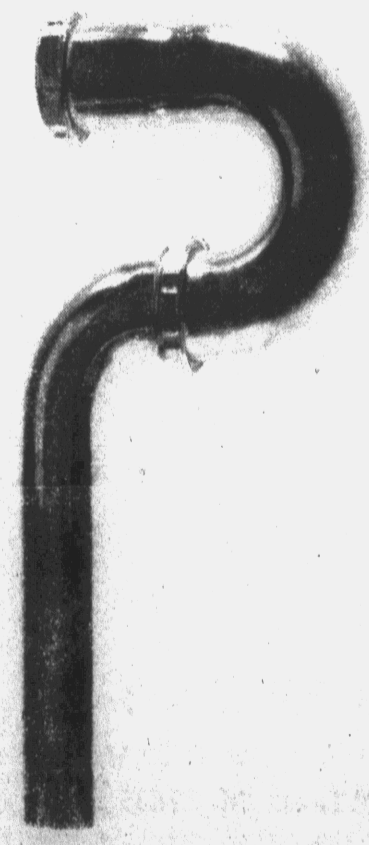
Member FDIC



City Wide Spring Clean Up. April 1st kicked off a week long city wide clean up effort, some of the participants included Mayor Pr-Tem Mildred A. Council, Council Member at large Chuck Autry, city Council Member Rose Glover. The Kick off was at Thomas Foreman park along with Weed and Seed volunteers. Local city youth envolved with and other volunteers were also on hand. File Photo

Read your history understand your future.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?



Sewer spills

YUK! They're messy, bad for the environment, and can result in stiff financial penalties from state regulators. Greenville Utilities does everything it can to prevent sewer spills. But we can't do it alone. You play an important role in helping us maintain an efficient public sanitary sewer system.

What causes sewer spills? It's simple. They're caused by improper disposal of items into the sewer system. We ask you to be aware of the following guidelines:

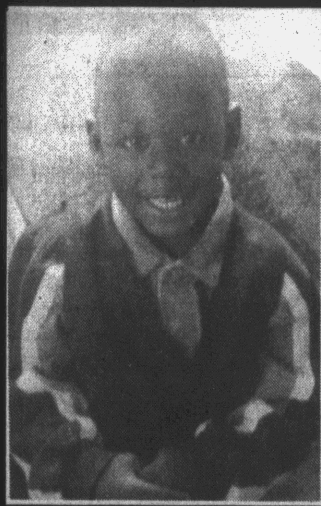
- Please avoid pouring fats, oils or grease from cooking down the drain. Instead, collect them in a container and dispose in the trash.
- Please don't use your toilets as a wastebasket. Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of items such as disposable diapers and personal hygiene products.
- Unless you have a garbage disposal, please don't use your drain to dispose of food scraps. Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal.

We appreciate your cooperation in following those few simple guidelines. Together, we can protect our sewer system and our environment. For more information, please contact us at 551-1551.



vote for my grandpa Jim Rouse

Vote to elect Jim Rouse to
the NC House of Representatives
District 8
May 2nd 2000



Paid for by the committee to elect
Jim Rouse

elect Jim Rouse



N.C. House of Representatives



Words of Faith



Suejette Jones

WHAT IS TRUTH

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I unto the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth....." Pilate saith unto Him, "What is truth?" (John 18:37,38). So far as the record indicates, Jesus made no direct reply to Pilate's question. However the night before, when Jesus was praying in the upper room, He said to His Heavenly

Father on behalf of his disciples, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth." (John 17:17). The word here referred to is undoubtedly the Old Testament servers as a guiding star in our search for truth where the Apostle Peter mentions a subject which he says, "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

When Jesus stood before Pilate, accused of being a king, and therefore a traitor to the Roman Empire, He said "My kingdom is not of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews." (John 18:36). Pilate did not have the ability to understand what Jesus said nor have many of His followers since then thoroughly understood its real meaning. Hoping that Jesus would clarify the point, Pilate asked, "Art Thou a king then?" In other words, Pilate wanted to know whether this statement by Jesus that His kingdom was not of this world confirmed or denied the charge his enemies had entered against Him. Jesus replied again, "Thou sayest that I am a king...." Had Pilate known it, Jesus had already

given an important answer to this question by His statement that His kingdom was not of this world. Only those who, by faith, are to grasp the true meaning of this and are prepared to understand the whole truth of the Word of God and rejoice therein.

The kingdom of Christ will not be set up in the earth by human efforts but by divine authority and power. It will in no way associate itself with the governments of this world, much less dependent upon their military might for support, nor vote of the people nor by human efforts of the millions of His admirers. This is a definite and fundamental truth which is set forth clearly in the Word of God.

Here, then, is the answer to Pilate's question as to what is truth pertaining to the kingdom of Christ. It is the reassuring fact that intervenes in the affairs of men and sets up a kingdom of righteousness which will operate without human authority and human assistance.

Suejette A. Jones is currently enrolled in a religious studies program at Pitt Community College

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elect Democrat Jim Rouse to N.C. House of Representatives

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Pursuant to General Statutes of North Carolina, Section 143-129, as amended, sealed proposals will be received by the City of Greenville, North Carolina, in the Public Works Department Conference Room, 1500 Beatty Street, Greenville, North Carolina, until 10:00 AM, on Tuesday, April 25, 2000 and immediately thereafter opened and read for the 1999/00 Street Resurfacing Project.

The Street Resurfacing will consist of placing approximately 5,597 tons of bituminous concrete, Type 1-2, and making necessary adjustments to valve and manholes. Street milling will consist of milling one (1) street one inch (1") to six inch (611) for a total of 6,925 square yards. Dirt street improvements will consist of placing approximately 400 tons of bituminous concrete Type 1-2, and fine grading approximately 3,734 square yards of crushed aggregate base.

Proposals must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Purchasing Agent, City of Greenville, Post Office Box 7207, Greenville, North Carolina, 27835-7207, and the outside of the envelope must be marked "11 proposal for 1999/2000 Street Resurfacing Project". The name, address, and North Carolina license number of the Bidder, and the date and time of Bid opening shall be clearly indicated on the outside of the envelope. One (1) unbound copy of the Proposal form is furnished in the Specifications which must be executed and submitted.

Each Proposal must be accompanied by cash, cashier's check, or a certified check, drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company or a Bid Bond as prescribed by North Carolina G.S. 143129, payable to the City of Greenville, in an amount at least equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the Bid, as a guarantee that a Contract will be entered into and that a satisfactory Performance Bond will be executed. Contractors are notified that legislative acts relating to licensing of contractors will be observed in receiving Bids and awarding Contracts.

Plans and Specifications describing the work may be obtained from the Public Works Department at 1500 Beatty Street or by written request addressed to P. O. Box 7207, Greenville, North Carolina 27835-7207.

The City of Greenville reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informalities, and to award Contract or Contracts which appear to be in its best interest. The right is reserved to hold any or all Proposals for a period of forty-five (45) days from the opening thereof.

Minority and Women Owned Firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL, 2000

CITY OF GREENVILLE

ANGELENE PEOPLE, PURCHASING MANAGER

The Statue of Liberty Was Originally Black

By KWAKU PERSON-LYNN, PhD
Special to the Sentinel

When visiting New York City, there are standard attractions one will generally see: the Empire State Building, Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge, Broadway, and other scenic attractions. If one is of Afrikan descent, visiting the many historic and cultural sites in Harlem is unavoidable. There is one attraction in New York City that has a very hidden history and is known throughout the world as the Statue of Liberty. A current debate crossing the country argues the original design of New York's grand lady. There has been much speculation and trepidation regarding this issue, but as in any investigation, you look for clues that will later establish your hypothesis into a fact. An attempt will be made here to bring clarity and present sources for your own investigation.

Typical of the debate floating around the country on this issue is an e-mail I received from a friend that did not identify the author, which would immediately raise questions in the mind of any serious researcher, but in this particularly case, bordered more on reality than fiction.

"During my visit to France, I saw the original Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty was originally a Black woman, but as memory serves, it was because the model was Black. In a book called *The Journey of The Songhai People*, according to Dr. Jim Haskins, a member of the National Education Advisory Committee of the Liberty-Ellis Island Committee, professor of English at the University of Florida, and prolific Black author, points out what stimulated the original idea for the 151 foot statue in the harbor. He says that the idea for the creation of the statue initially was the part that Black soldiers played in the ending of Black Afrikan Bondage in the United States. It was created in the mind of the French historian, Edouard de Laboulaye, chairman of the French Antislavery Society, who together with sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, proposed to the French government that the people of France present to the people of the United States, through the American Abolitionist Society, the gift of a Statue of Liberty in recognition of the fact that Black soldiers won the Civil War in the United States. It was widely known then that it was Black soldiers who played the pivotal role in winning the war, and this gift would be a tribute to their prowess. Suzanne Nakasian, director of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island Foundations' National Ethnic Campaign, said that Black America's direct connection to Lady Liberty is unknown to the majority of Americans, BLACK or WHITE.

"When the statue was presented to the U.S. Minister, by France, it is said that the Minister stated that the dominant view of the broken shackles would be offensive to a U.S. South, because the statue was a reminder of Blacks winning their freedom. It was a reminder to a beaten South, of whom caused their defeat, of their despised former captives."

In my book *FIRST WORD Black Scholars Thinkers Warriors*, Dr. Leonard Jeffries, political scientist, in a discussion with Ed Koch, mayor of New York City at the time, gives a more detailed description of the facts on the background of the statue.

"Then I go on to say, 'When we did meet Koch, and he asked the question, the first thing I raised with Ed Koch was the question of the Statue of Liberty.' In the tape I say,

'Ed Koch, we have to deal with that Statue of Liberty, because clearly the historical evidence shows that it had nothing to do with your immigrant forebears. The Statue of Liberty has a great deal to do with forebears who fought for liberty in America.' That's how I introduce myself to Ed Koch.

"Most people do not know the

his. He realized it was coming from Edouard-René Lefebvre de Laboulaye, because he understood that slavery was destroyed, and that Afrikan peoples had a great deal to do with destroying it. A quarter of a million of us fought in the Civil War. He realized we could raise a statue in the name of liberty in America.

is not in the history books. I didn't learn about this when I went through school. I was trying to tell Ed Koch, and he accepted it. He doesn't have information to the contrary. If you raise these issues, you become anti-immigrants, anti-Italian, anti-Poles, anti-Jews, anti-Hungarians. We're not anti, we're trying to deal with the truth.

"When the statue was standing in the harbor, with the beacon of light, immigrants coming in co-opted it, took it, and made it a spiritual symbol for themselves. The real spirit of it comes out of our ancestors who fought like no other people against the slave system and produced this enormous victory against enslavement. That history has to be known. It has to be told. I intend to tell it with the last breath in my body. That's what we do."

Incidentally, the chains are still at the feet of the statue, though the ethnic character was changed from Afrikan to European. Most of us have been trained in traditional American history, which generally conceals such facts, so here are some sources one can check to verify the authenticity of the previous mentioned statements:

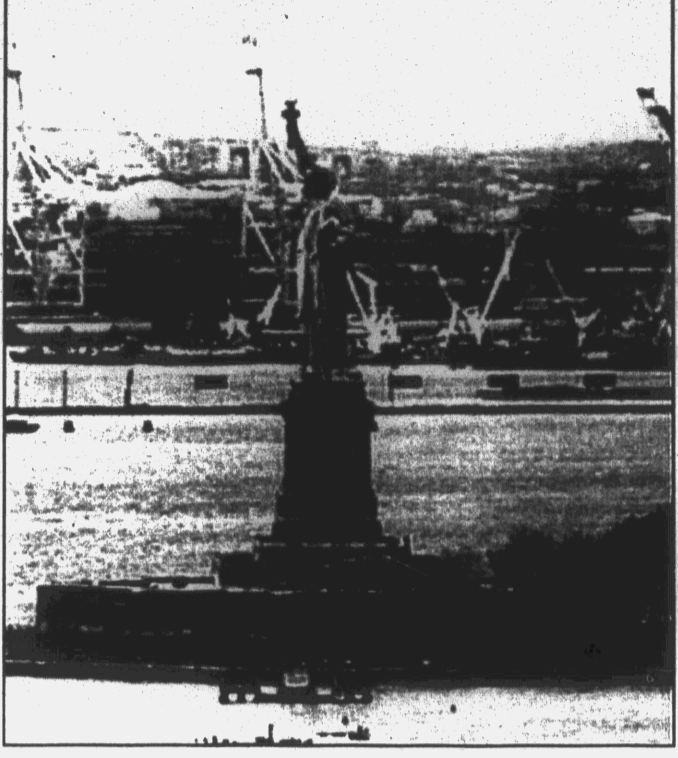
1. You may go and see the original model of the Statue of Liberty, with the broken chains at her feet and in her left hand. Go to the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, or call (212) 534-1672 and dial ext. 208 and speak to Peter Simmons. He can send you some documentation.

2. Check with the New York Times Magazine, part II, May 18, 1986.

3. The dark original face of the Statue of Liberty can be seen in the New York Post, June 17, 1986, also the Post stated the reason for the broken chains at her feet.

4. Finally, you may check with the French Mission or the French Embassy at the UN or in Washington, D.C., and ask for some original French material on the Statue of Liberty, including the Bartholdi original model. (202) 944-6060 or 6400.

(Dr. Kwaku Person-Lynn is on the faculty at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and author of *FIRST WORD Black Scholars Thinkers Warriors*. E-mail: DrKwaku@hotmail.com)



LADY LIBERTY

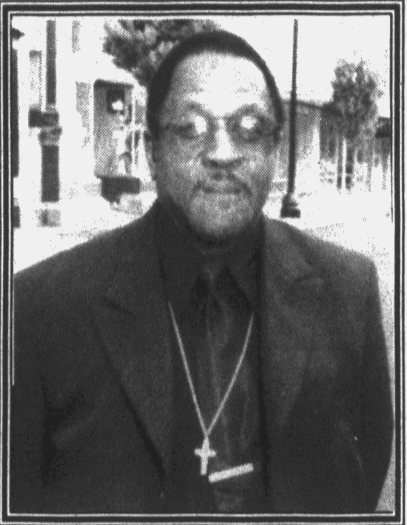
Statue of Liberty has not a damn thing to do with immigrants. The statue was standing in the harbor, in 1886, before the waves and waves of immigrants from Europe—East, Central and Southern Europe—began to come and stream into New York, in the 1890s and the 1900s; the waves of Italians, Jews, Poles, Russians and Greeks, etc.

"The Statue of Liberty comes after the struggle of black folk in the Civil War. It was conceived by a Frenchman called Edouard-René Lefebvre de Laboulaye, a political scientist. A theoretician who wrote a three volume history of the United States. He was the head of the French Anti-Slave Society. It was at his home, in 1865, that the idea of the Statue of Liberty was given birth. Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor was there, a friend of

"When the first models were built, they were an Afrikan woman holding the broken chains of enslavement in her hand and at her feet. Of course, this model couldn't be accepted by racist America. Eventually, the Statue of Liberty was modeled in a white context. The basis for the idea, and the basis for the structures that became the Statue of Liberty, come out of the Afrikan experience.

"Bartoldi, the sculptor, went to Egypt twice. First as a 19 year old, then when he was given the commission by Edouard-René Lefebvre de Laboulaye to develop a Statue of Liberty. He went to Egypt again. He was inspired by the monumental building of Afrikans of the Nile. That's why he conceived of this large structure. The Statue of Liberty is an Afrikan center, but this

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N.C. Senate District #6

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Marian McLawhorn NC HOUSE

Re-elect Marian McLawhorn to the NC House of Representatives. Please cast your vote on Tuesday, May 2nd.

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Marian McLawhorn, Don Branch, Treasurer

Vote to Elect GRAHAM BOYD Commissioner of Agriculture

Graham Boyd is a native of Beaufort County and a lifelong resident of North Carolina. He has been connected with agriculture all his life through production agricultural leadership roles.



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Paid for by the candidate. **Graham Boyd**

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FRIENDS FOR ANN CAMPAIGN

ANN HUGGINS for County Commissioner A Plan for a Better Pitt County

- Increase value of education by promoting better pay and better resources.
- Because of Hurricane Floyd devastation, I would like to address the damages that were done to environment.
- I would like to help improve the quality of life for our Senior Citizens.
- I would like to increase resources and incentives for our county employees.
- I would like to address health issues in our county by working with Pitt Memorial Hospital and other countywide health organizations.
- I would like to improve the county infrastructure through building and rebuilding roads, facilities, and countywide water/sewer system for a better Pitt County.
- I would like to improve County security through crime prevention and intervention.
- I would like to encourage the most productive usage of our tax dollars. I will also examine other ways to generate revenue.

A Vote for Ann Huggins is a Vote for a Better Pitt County
Paid for by the Friends for Ann Campaign, Anthony Miller, Treasurer

Africans Save Europe: The Moors

By KWAKU PERSON-LYNN, PhD
Special to the Sentinel

The story of the Moors in Europe is one of the greatest revivalist stories in world history. Europe would not be as advanced today if not for the Africans, who came out of the Nile Valley region into Europe, and came to be known as the Moors. Their sojourn into Europe began in 711 A.D., when an African general named Tarik ibn Ziyad, of which Djabal Tarik (Tarik's mountain), or Gibraltar is named after, crossed the Iberian Peninsula from Africa into Spain.

Europe was in the crux of the Dark Ages, suffering from a massive intellectual, scientific, social and cultural decline for almost 1000 years. This primarily occurred when the Anglos and the Saxons defeated the Roman Empire and destroyed whatever gains Europe enjoyed from Roman ingenuity.

When Moorish Africans, who were Muslim, entered Spain, they brought Europe up to a level of civilization it had never experienced. Jose V. Pimentabey, in his article "Moorish Spain: Academic Source and Foundation for the Rise and Success of Western European Universities in the Middle Ages" states, "For behind Europe's 'Scientific Enlightenment,' we find many African Muslims. In fact, we find that the very foundation and structure of 'Western' Science and Academe is built upon the erudition of these people known as Moors. (See Golden Age of the Moors edited by Ivan Van Sertima).

The influence of the Moors spread throughout Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and England. Twelve of Europe's greatest known universities were established during the Moorish occupation to translate and study Moorish texts. The universities of Rome, Oxford, Cambridge, Lisbon and Salamanca are among this group.

The totality of what the Moors contributed to Europe's revival are too numerous to list here, but an attempt will be made in order to visualize the scope and breadth of how they brought Europe back to life.

Starting with basic survival, the Moors showed the Europeans how to increase the fertility of their soil to sustain larger growth and harvest. They introduced such items as: rice, cotton, oranges, bananas, coconuts, maize, medical herbs and introduced food preservation and storage in order to survive the harsh winters.

The Moors introduced the use of water wheels, aqueducts, paved streets and windows. The houses in Cordova were "air conditioned in summer by ingeniously arranged draughts of fresh air drawn from the garden over beds of flowers, chosen for their perfume, and warmed in winter by hot air conveyed through pipes bedded in the walls." (See "The Moor: Light of Europe's Dark Age" by Wayne Chandler in Golden Age of the Moor) Bathrooms were supplied with hot and cold running water.

In fact, the Moors established hundreds of bathhouses in Spain. Cleanliness was almost as important as eating to them, but also for health reasons. "Europeans offered no scientific reason for 'infection.' Let us again remember that the Catholic masses did not view bathing and personal hygiene as vitally important to good health and the prevention of disease." (Pimentabey)

Europeans use to drink out of gold and silver goblets. The Moors introduced crystal glasses and plates. They also introduced a technique that we use today, where to place plates, glasses and silverware on tables for meals.

Science was primitive and undeveloped in Europe. They were still debating if the world was flat, until the Moors showed them that the world was round. The Moors brought chemistry. The Moors brought medical science to Europe. "For seven centuries the medical schools of Europe owed everything they knew to Moorish research. Vivisection as well as dissection of dead bodies was practiced in their anatomical schools, and women as well as men were trained to perform some of the most delicate surgical operations." (Chandler)

Chandler continues, "Cordova had 417 mosques and 300 public baths. The number of houses of the great and noble were 63,000 and 200,077 of the common people. There were upwards of 80,000 shops. Water from the mountains was distributed through every corner and quarter of the city by means of leaden pipes into basins of different shapes, made of the purest gold, the finest silver, or plated brass as well into vast lakes, curious tanks, amazing reservoirs and fountains of Grecian marble." This was accomplished nowhere else in Europe.

During their leisure time, the Moors introduced the intellectual game of chess to the Europeans, the guitar, the classical style of guitar playing, flamenco dancing, added an extra string to the lute giving it a more vibrant sound and changed fashion from two seasons to four seasons. Miles Davis, in his autobiography, comments on the music. "The Black Moors were over there in Spain because Africans had conquered Spain a long time ago. In the Andalusian area you have a lot of African influence in the music, architecture and in the whole culture and a lot of blood in the people. So you had a black African thing up in the feeling of the music in the bag pipes and trumpets and drums." (See Miles: The Autobiography)

As an aside, William Shakespeare wrote an ode to his Moorish mistress, Lucy Morgan of Clerkenwell. (See "African Women in Early Europe" by Edward Scobie in African Presence in Early Europe)

The Moors advanced medicine to its highest form. "Moorish physicians used drugs, surgery, and cauterization; medicine was a highly technical profession complete with extensive training and a code of conduct. European healing practices at the time still largely relied upon charms and amulets; socially and politically powerful clergy frowned upon and repressed medicine, thereby leaving the field in the hands of quacks and barbers." (See Muslim Spain by Awwar Chejne) "The Moors were the first to trace 'the curvilinear path of rays of light through air,' this discovery in about 1100 is a prerequisite to the design of corrective eyeglasses." (Chandler) For centuries the mastery of Moorish medical works was required for obtaining medical degrees at Europe's most prestigious universities. They also brought quadratic equations, geometry and trigonometry to Europe. Their architecture and interior decoration of houses and palaces was of the highest standard in the world.

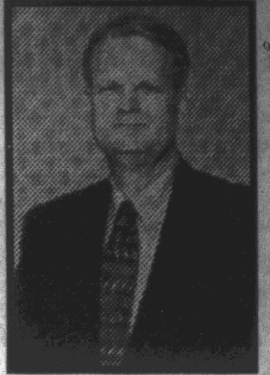
When the Moors were defeated in 1492 A.D., the Christian Europeans, who resented the threat of the Moors advanced civilization, plundered most of the progress the Moors had established. For instance, when the Moors were driven out of Europe, they left 70 libraries in Spain, alone. The European Christians destroyed everyone, the same as they destroyed the great library, with thousands of volumes, in Alexandria, Kemet (Egypt). But even in defeat, it was the Moors who sparked European exploration in the world by bringing them the compass, astrolabe, rudders and sails of the large ships.

Europe and the world are supremely indebted to the contributions the Moors have made. Unfortunately, this is not reflected in the history books or classrooms, except for the most part by instructors and scholars of African descent and through their literature. It is a history that cannot be denied.

(Kwaku Person-Lynn is on the faculty at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and author of FIRST WORD—Black Scholars, Thinkers, Warriors. E-mail: DrKwaku@hotmail.com)

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- * Graduate of East Carolina University
- * President of NC Driving School, Inc.
- * Eastern United States Vice President of the Driving Schools Association of Americas
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- * Chairman of Winterville Precinct Democrats
- * Member of the Winterville Town Board 1997 to Present
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- * Distinguished Service Award by Winterville Jaycees 1983
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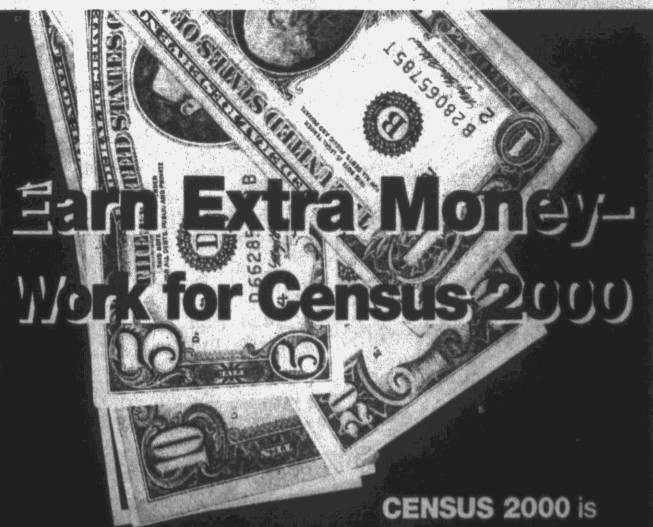
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Classifieds



Minnie Anderson

Republican Truth Building Bridges Towards Minorities

3.C. Watts is the only Black GOP member of Congress at this time. He has predicted that the country will see more African-Americans following in his footsteps. He has now been in the House of Representatives for six years, and is the first Black House Republican Conference chairman.

Things could change in November. There are African-Americans running in Georgia, Colorado, California, Florida, South Carolina, Minnesota and North Carolina on the Republican ticket. In some cases, Black Democrats will be challenging Black Republicans.

Historically, there have been 105 Black Americans elected to the Congress in its 211 years. Of these, 101 were Representatives and four were Senators.

The first Black member of Congress was Republican Hiram Rhodes Revels, of Mississippi, who served in the Senate beginning in 1870. The first African-American member of the House of Representatives was also a Republican, Joseph H. Rainey, of South Carolina. Rainey served in

the 41st Congress, as did Revels. Massachusetts Republican Edward Brooks was the first Black elected to the U.S. Senate after the 12th Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, providing for direct election of Senators rather than by State legislatures.

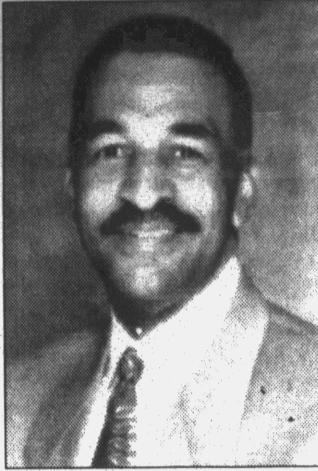
According to Ben Anderson of the CNS staff, today's Black GOP candidates in the deep South are working to unseat incumbents in a variety of districts. South-central Los Angeles has given rise to three Black Republicans, including Carl McGill, who is challenging Representative Maxine Waters. One young Black Republican state that he became a Republican because he was sick of the African-American voting block being used by the Democrats, and then seeing education not improve, and the elderly having to choose between rent, mortgage, utilities or medication with their limited income. African-Americans have choices and should explore more than the choice that has caused us to be dependent on a system that has failed lots of fellow African-Americans over and over again. What has appealed to more and more Black Americans is the Republican message concerning charter schools, school vouchers, welfare reform and family values.

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BLACKONOMICS

Collective and Cooperative Economics — Middle East Style



By James Clingan

(NNPA) — In my book, *Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement - We Have a Choice* there is a discussion regarding "manufactured oil prices" and some of the other games being run on us much of the time. It draws the reader's attention to how easy it is for those in control of various facets of our economy to increase their profits and to make their lives even more comfortable — anytime they want.

We see it now with the rising fuel costs. People in cold climates must choose between warming their homes and putting food on the table. Over-the-road truckers are faced with sky-rocketing diesel fuel costs. Automobile owners cringe each time they pull up to the pump. Where it used to be a fill-up, it's now maybe a half tank or so.

What we are facing with these rising costs is another example of people working together to improve their financial position. They are working cooperatively to strengthen their collective economic position. Whether they need the extra billions or not is irrelevant; they are in control of their resources and they determine what others will pay for those resources.

A few little countries in the

Middle East got together and realized they could control much of the world by simply working in concert. A few little countries, several of which the United States has sent men and women to fight and die for, get together and decide how much oil they are going to produce and, thereby, change the landscape of many larger countries of the world. Well, that's what collective economics is all about.

This glaring example of cooperative economics is something each of us can witness personally at least once each week when we pull up to the pump. We should learn from it. A few small countries working together have brought big bad truckers to their knees, caused them to drive to our nation's capital in protest, and set up "rolling road blocks" along our expressways. A few small potentates are making the rest of us rant and rave about the price of gasoline, shake and shiver in our own homes, and cut back on other essentials.

This example of collective and cooperative economics, while it is not one that benefits us, does benefit those who participate in it, and Black people should use their example to develop our own cooperative economic structure. We should assess our resources, both intellectual and financial, and establish programs and procedures that will benefit our people. It's a matter of controlling what we have and doling it out at our discretion, not at the request of someone else.

You can see it with OPEC states. They do not seem to care that some of our people died for their countries, that some of them came back home with illnesses that will eventually kill them, or that our people saved their precious oil by putting out those oil-well fires. That does not matter when it comes to the money. They understand that what they have is power and they can exercise that power anytime they wish to do so. An analogy can be drawn between what OPEC is doing and what Black people could be doing in this country. If we

were psychologically free and really decided to pursue our true economic freedom, we could bring a few folks to their knees as well. We could transform what is now an insignificant group of consumers into a powerful band of producers, distributors, and retailers. We could wreak havoc on the corporations that take our dollars for granted. We could cause an economic tidal wave rather than the small ripples we currently see as a result of our half-hearted boycotts, demands for apologies, organizational payoffs, token employees, and all of the other shallow tactics we deploy and accept.

We could be the OPEC of this country if we would use our half-trillion dollars to build our own businesses and to determine the prices of our products rather than having always to submit to the price-gouging of other businesses. If we took control of our resources and worked cooperatively and collectively; in support of one another, withdrawing our dollars from those who hold us in disdain, we could control our economic destiny.

If we would deny our dollars, not for one day, but for one year or more, to those businesses that exploit our people on a daily basis and return virtually nothing, we could be in control. Have you ever wondered what happened to National Gas Out Day? The trouble with that campaign was that it lasted for just one day. Now on May 20, 2000, we are going to have National Black Out Day. I will support it, but will it do any good if we simply return to our normal buying habits the very next day?

Take a lesson from the little countries about whom we sometimes joke and make fun. They are demonstrating the purest form of collective and cooperative economics. They are making us pay dearly because they are in control of their resources. Black people should do the same.

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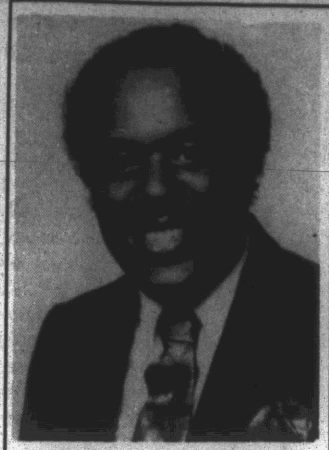
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Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

Christ pledged allegiance to God when they accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is not enough just to be saved but it goes a whole lot further. We have a commitment to uphold. We commit our way unto the Lord. We commit our works unto the Lord. There are many things that we can commit unto the Lord. The question is what are we committing unto Him? What are we entrusting into His care?

We commit and make commitments to a lot of things, most of which profit very little or nothing at all. We commit to everything except the right thing.

Jesus was a man dedicated and committed to doing the will of the Father come what may.

We should not fall short of doing the same thing. True dedication simply makes a decision based on your commitment to God, not on feelings or emotions. A time will come in your life when you will face commitment. How you handle it now may determine whether you succeed or fail and even whether you live or die. If you are not willing to face commitment, in spite of emergencies and opposition, you should not pursue your ministry any longer in this condition but you should take the time to get before the Lord and study

His Word until the Holy Spirit and you deal with your willingness to be committed.

Dedication and commitment to the Lord, and not man, is what it is all about. Only what you do for Christ will last. Man does not have a heaven or hell to put you in. It is time for you to come into excellence concerning personal ministry and the particular ministry where God as has established you as a whole, for it is a ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has entrusted us with the souls of man. We have a commitment to Him to possess the land. Every place our feet shall tread upon is ours. God is not going to settle for anything less than excellence. **Matthew 5:48** says "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

There is a hymn that says "A charge to keep I have. A God to glorify; a never dying soul to save; and fit it for the sky."

Find your place in your local ministry and then go before the Lord with it to find out how he wants you to go about fulfilling that call. It is time for the Body of Christ to come to excellence. It is time to pursue God concerning priorities.

OUR HERITAGE: Buddha and Krishna—African Deities

By KWAKU PERSON-LYNN, PHD
Special to the Sentinel

Two of the world's best known deities, outside of the western world, are Buddha and Krishna. Both were born in India and both are of African descent, Ethiopian to be exact. Little is mentioned in this part of the world that India was once part of the Ethiopian Empire. This is further verified in the Ethiopian sacred text, The Kebra Negast, which regarded West India as a part of the Ethiopian Empire. Many writers, depending on the time period, refer to the Ethiopians as the ancient Cushites, while their land was referred to in the Bible as the "Land of Cush." The Indus Valley civilization, which reached its height from 2500 B.C to 1500 B.C, is the birthplace of Indian civilization and is commonly referred to as Harappan civilization. This was a civilization established by those Africans who migrated from the Nile Valley region. Harappa was the urban center which dominated the upper Indus region much like the Mohenjo-Daro did in the lower Indus Valley. This was the area where two world religions spring forth to reach large parts of the globe. It is estimated that approximately 150 million people of African descent live in India today.

Siddhartha Gautama, also known as Sakia Muni, the 9th Avatar of India, lived around 600 B.C. He ultimately became the Buddha. He reached the highest state of the Buddhist religion, "Enlightenment" under the Bodhi Tree. His life parallels that of Christ. The Virgin Maya (Mary) is said to have given birth to him through Immaculate Conception. "When her child, Buddha was born, he stood upright and proclaimed, 'I will put to an end the sufferings and sorrows of the world.' As these words uttered a light surrounded the infant Messiah." (See Sixteen Crucified Saviors by Kersey Graves)

"Ktesias, for example, the first European to write a comprehensive general account of India, known to posterity as the Indika of Ktesias, mentions large concentrations of Blacks in the regions of the eastern Himalayas and the Upper Ganges, where most accounts place the birthplace of Gautama." ("Africans in Early Asian Civilizations: A Historical Overview" by Runoko Rashidi in African Presence in Early Asia)

Godrey Higgins, in Anacalypsis Vol. 1, offers "The religion of Buddha, of India, is well known to have been very ancient. In the most ancient temples scattered throughout Asia, where his worship is yet continued, he is found black as jet, with the flat face, thick lips and curly hair of the Negro."

According to an anonymous Buddhist Chinese student, preferring not to be identified, there was also another Buddha who hailed out of Afrika. "There is one in particular that we were not aware of, it is Ra Heru Buto-Sut-Nahsi. The 'Hetep Dhamma' is related to the teachings of Ra Heru Buto-Sut-Nahsi, commonly called the Buddha. Ra

Heru Buto-Sut-Nahsi, the Buddha, was one of a long line of Buddhas or Herus: one who possessed self-mastery via mind training and the regulation of the life force (Ra), which operates in our bodies and throughout the universe. The heart of his message of deliverance from suffering and the attainment of Hetep of Nibanna (Nirvana) through the curbing of appetites and emotions became prominently known as The Four Noble Truths and the The Eightfold Path. Its fundamental beliefs are related to the ancient spiritual and holistic philosophies of Nubian ancestors of ancient Ethiopia, Egypt, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappan civilizations. It is said the Buddha felt so strongly regarding the removal of suffering and oppression, he taught that any religion which failed to have the recognition of suffering and oppression as its core was no religion at all.

"According to the late historian Cheikh Anta Diop, Ra Heru Buto-Sut-Nahsi was a black African priest from Ta Merry (Kemet), who during the invasion and persecution by Cambyse, migrated to Asia and came to India possibly around 522 - 512 B.C."

Lord Krishna was the 8th Avatar of the Hindu pantheon and is said to have lived about 1200 B.C. He is usually depicted as blue, purple or any other color than black. As is Buddha, Krishna's life parallels that of Christ. He was the son of the Virgin Devaki, also born by Immaculate Conception. John G. Jackson, in his book Christianity Before Christ, gives us the following. "The birth of Krishna occurred while his foster father, Nanda, was in the city to pay his tax to the King. Likewise, Jesus was born while his foster father, Joseph, was in the city to pay tax to the governor."

"King Kansa sought the life of the Hindu Christ by ordering the slaughter of all male children born on the same night as was Krishna. This is paralleled by the story of the slaughter of the innocents, ordered by King Herod, as related in the Gospel according to Matthew: 11-16.

"A heavenly voice warned Nanda to flee across the Jumna River with the infant Krishna, in order to escape from King Kansa. In this instance, we recall that Joseph was warned in a dream to flee into Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the Christ-child to escape from King Herod.

"Krishna performed numerous miracles in Mathura. While in Egypt, Jesus performed similar miracles in Matara.

This same story started with Isis, who had a virgin birth with Horus (Heru), 4000 years before Mary and Jesus, in Kemet (Egypt).

What is implied here, other than the African ancestry of Buddha and Krishna, is that all of us need to look very closely at the texts related to various deities in the world and ultimately put this on top of the table, discuss it and see what we come up with.

(Dr. Kwaku Person-Lynn is on the faculty at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and author of FIRST WORD Black Scholars Thinkers Warriors. E-mail: DrKwaku@hotmail.com)

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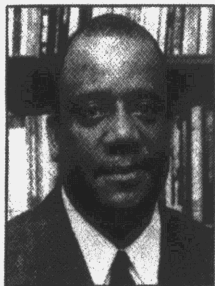
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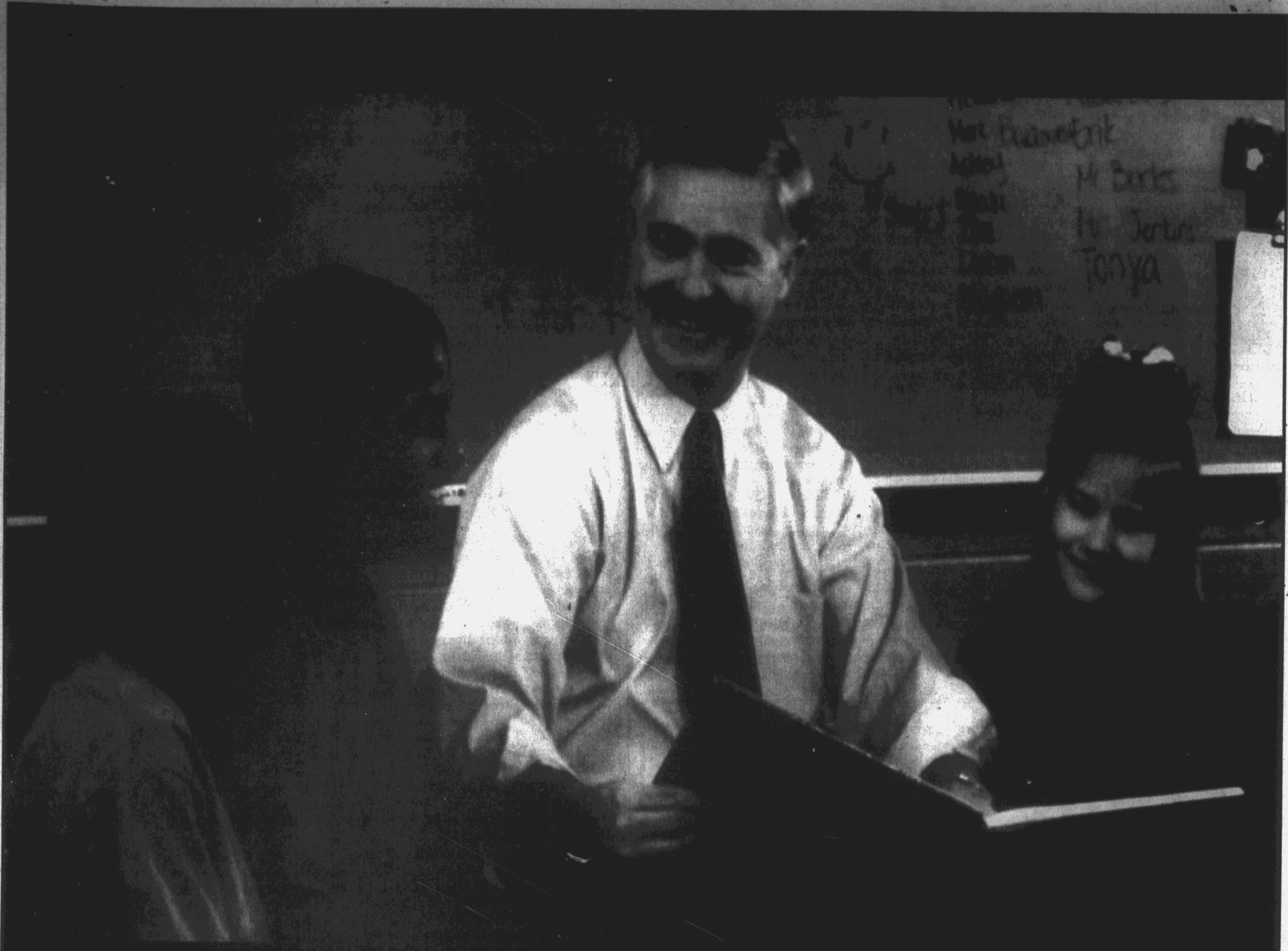
Some people have allergies when their immune systems over-react to food, medicine or something else in the environment. An allergic reaction may trigger hay fever, asthma, rashes and reactions to food. The most common causes of allergies are pollen, mold, house dust, animal hair, insect stings and food.

Learning the cause of an allergy can help you avoid or manage the symptoms. Fish, eggs, milk and nuts are the most common foods that trigger allergic reactions. Food allergies may cause rash or hives, swelling of the lips, tongue, face and throat, shortness of breath or headache. These reactions are usually mild, but may become serious. Most people with food allergies react to one or just a few foods. If you have food allergies, look for substitutes such as rice flour bread instead of wheat bread, or soy milk for cow's milk.

Occasionally, people have sudden and severe allergic reactions that can be life threatening. These reactions may occur after insect stings, eating certain foods or taking drugs such as penicillin. In these rare cases, the allergic reaction may cause difficulty with breathing, a drop in blood pressure and swelling of the body. If you or someone you know has a severe allergic reaction, seek emergency medical help immediately.

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Mike Easley puts our families first.

Easley: Lottery money for local schools first.

Some say lottery money should be used to subsidize a college scholarship program. Mike Easley wants to invest in our local public schools first – where we need it most. Mike Easley will use proceeds from a new state education lottery to reduce class size, starting in the early grades, so students will get the individualized attention they need.

Pre-kindergarten for at-risk children.

Mike Easley will use another portion of lottery proceeds to start a pre-kindergarten program for at-risk 4 year-olds so all of our children can start school ready to learn.

Prescription drug assistance for seniors.

Mike Easley will fight for a statewide program that cuts the cost of prescription drugs for low-income seniors.

Opportunity for Women and Minorities.

Mike Easley appointed the first African-American Director of the State Bureau of Investigation and has women and people of color working in top positions throughout his current office. As Governor, he'll make sure state government includes diversity at all levels.

A Fighter for us.

Mike Easley has always been on our side. As District Attorney, he won national praise for bringing down international drug kingpins. As Attorney General, he prosecuted fraudulent telemarketers and cracked down on predatory money lenders who were robbing seniors and working families of their homes. And Mike Easley has helped lead the fight against hate crimes in North Carolina.

www.mikeeasley.org Paid for by the Mike Easley Committee.

Mike Easley for Governor.
On our side, for our future.

MIKE EASLEY
G O V E R N O R